

It is not known from what part of the Pyrenees Range (about 50 miles long) G. A. Robinson picked his few specimens; nevertheless they certainly constitute the earliest preserved sample of the flora in this mountain region. Major T. L. Mitchell, on 10 July 1836, had crossed from Carapooee to Beazley's Bridge on the Avon River, skirting the Pyrenees just south of St. Arnaud, and climbing a high hill at the northern extremity of the Range (whence he obtained a distant prospect of the Grampians); but he made no botanical collections in this area. Only two species of the Robinson plants, Nos. 12 and 15, were commented on or collected anywhere in Victoria by Mitchell, while the four species numbered 2, 4, 7, and 11 are the only ones on the list known to have been collected at Wando Vale (near Casterton) by J. G. Robertson during the 1840's. The remainder may well be the first samples of those species ever taken in Western Victoria. Number 1 (*Acrotriche prostrata*) would undoubtedly have come from higher cooler forests of this Range, whereas it is equally certain that Nos. 4 and 14 grew on open plains at the foot of the hills.

Although the much more spectacular, and botanically rewarding, Grampians ranges have been the subject of considerable floristic literature, astonishingly little has ever been written about the vegetation of the Pyrenees. One isolated paper of generally descriptive character and limited scientific value is J. W. Audas's "An Eastertide in the Victorian Pyrenees", published in the *Victorian Naturalist* 29: 51-58 (Aug. 1912).

---

#### TRISTANIA LACTIFLUA or T. LACTIFLORA ?

In *Muelleria* 1<sup>2</sup>: 91 (Dec. 1959) I gave reasons for changing the spelling of the epithet in *Tristania lactiflua* F. Muell. *Fragm. Phyt. Aust. I*: 82 (1858) to "*lactiflora*"—the form subsequently used by F. Mueller in both editions of his *Systematic Census of Australian Plants* (1882 and 1889). It now appears that such a change was unwarranted and that the original rendering, as *lactiflua*, should be reinstated. I had overlooked a vital statement in Mueller's diagnosis, viz. "*ramuli fractura lacte acri amaro scatent*", which is convincing evidence that he deliberately chose the epithet *lactiflua* in reference to the acrid latex oozing from broken branches of this tropical tree. Why Mueller should have adopted *lactiflora* ("milky-flowered"), 30 years later, is rather puzzling; it may have been considered more appropriate or euphonious, or the original spelling may later have been accidentally misconstrued by its author.

Mr. L. A. S. Johnson (at the Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium, Sydney) has noted that a milky sap often exudes from young broken branches of *Tristania conferta*, the commonly planted Brush Box, and he kindly drew the writer's attention to the oversight (mentioned above) in connection with *T. lactiflua*.

—J. H. WILLIS.